

**MEMO ENDORSED**



HON. SYLVIA O. HINDS-RADIX  
*Corporation Counsel*

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
LAW DEPARTMENT**

100 CHURCH STREET  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

Lauren Howland  
*Special Assistant Corporation Counsel*  
Office: (212) 356-2016

February 16, 2024

**VIA ECF**

Hon. Jessica G.L. Clarke  
Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States Courthouse  
500 Pearl Street  
New York, New York 10007

*Re: M.B., et al. v. N.Y.C. Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9768 (JGLC)(SLC)  
L.W., et al. v. N.Y.C. Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-09770 (JGLC)(GS)*

Dear Judge Clarke:

I am a Special Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Office of Corporation Counsel, the Hon. Sylvia O. Hinds-Radix, attorney for Defendant in the above-referenced actions, wherein Plaintiffs seek solely attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses for legal work on an administrative hearing under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20U.S.C. § 1400, *et seq.* ("IDEA"), as well as for this action.

On February 14, Judge Cronan scheduled a pre-motion conference for April 10, 2024 to discuss the anticipated consolidation motion, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a) (ECF No. 8), of these cases along with 29 other IDEA fees cases,<sup>1</sup> with *R.C., et al. v. N.Y.C. Dep't of Educ., 23-*

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<sup>1</sup> The parties will file corollary letters before the appropriate Article III or Magistrate Judge requesting stays of the following the cases:

- (i) *A.C., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-9729 (CM)(SN)*
- (ii) *K.B., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9734 (GHW)(KHP)*
- (iii) *C.C., et al. v. N.Y.C. Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9738 (GHW)(VF)*
- (iv) *D.M., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9736 (MKV)(VF)*
- (v) *M.Y., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9740 (JGK)(JLC)*
- (vi) *G.D., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9743 (ALC)(SLC)*
- (vii) *G.W., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9744 (PAE)(SDA)*
- (viii) *M.Z., v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9746 (MKV)(SLC)*
- (ix) *E.C. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9747 (JPO)(RWL)*
- (x) *L.P., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9749 (ER)(GS)*
- (xi) *G.P., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9750 (AT)(BCM)*
- (xii) *M.S., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9751 (LJL)(JW)*
- (xiii) *S.H., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9753 (KPF)(GS)*
- (xiv) *J.W., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9755 (AS)(SN)*
- (xv) *E.O. v. N.Y.C. Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9732 (JLC)(SLC)*
- (xvi) *A.M., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ., 23-cv-9758 (PAE)(SLC)*

cv-9727 (JPC)(RWL) (ECF No. 8). Therefore, I write on behalf of all parties to respectfully request a stay of the above-referenced actions pending the April 10 conference with Judge Cronan. All 32 cases were filed by Plaintiffs on November 3, 2023, and served on February 1, 2024. *R.C.* has the lowest civ. number of all the matters.<sup>2</sup> The parties' anticipated motion to consolidate includes a request for a 180-day stay<sup>3</sup> of all 32 cases for the purposes of simultaneous settlement, which the parties believe to be the most expeditious and judicially economical way to reach resolution. The parties are optimistic they will be able to fully resolve these matters through settlement without further intervention of the Court.

Should Judge Cronan grant the parties' requests, and in the unlikely event any of these 32 fee applications cannot be resolved through settlement, the parties will either seek the assistance of Magistrate Judge Lehrburger, currently assigned to *R.C.*, or propose a consolidated briefing schedule after the proposed 180-day timeline for global settlement.

We note that this office settles 95% of the IDEA claims commenced against the N.Y.C. Department of Education without the need to appear at conferences, engage in motion practice, and often without the need to respond to the complaint. We are hopeful these simple fee application cases will take that same course.

Given the foregoing, the parties additionally respectfully request that the Court adjourn, *sine die*, the joint submissions pursuant to the Court Orders in these matters each dated February 6, 2023 (ECF No. 7).

Accordingly, the parties respectfully request that the Court adjourn, *sine die*, the aforementioned joint submissions, and order a stay of this matter pending Judge Cronan's resolution of the motion pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a) in *R.C.*, 23-cv-9727.

The parties thank the Court for considering these requests.

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(xvii) *J.W., v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9759 (PAC)(KHP)  
 (xviii) *N.I., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-cv-9760 (JHR)(VF)  
 (xix) *A.S., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9761 (DEH)(SN)  
 (xx) *A.J., et al. v. N.Y.C. Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9757 (JLR)(SLC)  
 (xxi) *E.L., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9763 (LGS)(GS)  
 (xxii) *D.M., et al. v. N.Y.C. Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9762 (JMF)(KHP)  
 (xxiii) *E.N., et al. v. N.Y.C. Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9764 (AS)(GWG)  
 (xxiv) *K.M., et al. v. N.Y.C. Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9766 (AT)(JLC)  
 (xxv) *M.L., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9771 (JMF)(JLC)  
 (xxvi) *M.N. v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9772 (KPF)(JLC)  
 (xxvii) *S.I., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9773 (LGS)(JW)  
 (xxviii) *A.C., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9774 (ALC)(SN)  
 (xxix) *C.D., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9776 (ALC)(SN)

<sup>2</sup> On November 3, 2023, Plaintiffs additionally filed *H.B., et al. v. New York City Dep't of Educ.*, 23-cv-9724 (JMF)(BCM), however that matter has a pending order to show cause due failure of timely service.

<sup>3</sup> A 180-day extension would allow Defendant's counsel time to complete the City's internal review process for all 32 matters—which typically takes upwards of 90 days for a *single* matter—by analyzing the billing records together with the underlying administrative records, engaging in settlement negotiations, and hopefully reaching agreements in each matter.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/

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Lauren Howland  
Special Assistant Corporation Counsel

cc: Jesse Cole Cutler (via ECF)

Application GRANTED. The case is stayed pending further order of this Court. The parties should submit a status report by **April 17, 2024** updating the Court on the April 10, 2024 conference before Judge Cronan.

The Clerk of Court is directed to file this endorsement on the dockets of Case Numbers 23-CV-9768 and 23-CV-9770. The Clerk of Court is further directed to terminate ECF No. 11 in 23-CV-9768 and ECF No. 10 in 23-CV-9770.

SO ORDERED.



JESSICA G. L. CLARKE  
United States District Judge

Dated: February 20, 2024  
New York, New York